

Acquisition Qualification Testing (Aqueous-Based Cleaners)

Protecting the Soldier, Army Investments, and the Environment



A number of DoD installations have procured more environmentally friendly products for numerous applications. Standardized specifications and testing procedures do not always exist for material compatibility, safety, or performance.

Recent changes in DoD Acquisition Policy have opened the door for the acquisition of numerous environmentally friendly products. One consequence of this open policy is that installations can now procure various substitute materials which have not been fully tested for material compatibility, performance, and safety. **This can significantly impact the operation and maintenance of numerous weapon systems, ammunition, vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, components and support equipment utilized throughout DoD.** The U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC) and the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center (USAATC) have partnered to facilitate the development of standardized specifications and testing protocols for these new products (e.g., aqueous parts washers for Army facilities).



USAEC

Environmental Technology Division



Solutions

**For more information on
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Army Environmental Hotline
1-800-USA-3845 or email:
t2hotline@aec.apgea.army.mil

A Standardized Testing/Evaluation Protocol

Recent changes in DoD and Army Acquisition Policy have resulted in numerous installations acquiring untested and uncertified materials (aqueous cleaners, recycling systems, paints, closed loop wash systems, silver recovery systems, other cleaners, etc.). Without the proper qualification testing, numerous undefined hazards, equipment and material failures, and performance problems may occur. The unknowns may result in personnel injuries and loss of the use of valuable DoD equipment and material resources.

To overcome these problems, the USAEC and the USAATC have teamed to provide a powerful resource to solve this problem. The partnership provides extensive management of specification and testing protocol development, and testing experience to demonstrate the safety, performance and to qualify the capabilities of these new products.

A current example of one such case is that an Army MACOM acquired an aqueous parts cleaner service. The service is designed to reduce the utilization of hydrocarbon-based solvents that reduce hazardous waste. Several commodity commands challenged the MACOM on the acceptability of the cleaner with their end items. The commodity commands challenge was based on the fact that there was no standardized testing for material compatibility, performance, quality, and safety of the product. Further research

also demonstrated that a standardized testing protocol did not exist between the various commodity commands for gaining acceptance of the new/replacement product.

The USAEC and the USAATC are currently combining the needs of the MACOM with the concerns of the commodity owners to determine standardized testing/evaluation protocol for aqueous parts cleaners and evaluate these tests on a selected aqueous cleaner. This will determine if the cleaner will do what the MACOM needs and not harm or diminish the performance of the commodity owners end item. Complete results from this effort are anticipated in October 1997.

If your organization is experiencing similar acquisition difficulties, contact the USAEC Environmental Technology Division for assistance.

**Acquisition Quality Testing
will provide extensive
management of
specification and testing
protocol for demonstration
of safety, performance,
and compatibility of new
products development.**